

Forest Ecology

Forest Fun! (k–3rd grade, 3 hours)

Through hands-on experience and inquiry-based activities students will discover the wonders of forests in New Mexico. Our program is focused on getting students outside to learn about forest health, local wildlife's dependence on forests, and careers in forest ecology.

Subjects: Science

Understanding our Forests (4th - 6th grade, 3 hours)

There is much more to a forest than the trees! Through activities, games, and creative writing, students will learn about the parts of a tree, the lifecycle of forests, and the animals that depend on local forests to survive.

Subjects: Science, Math, and Language Arts

Forest Restoration Monitoring (8th – 12th grade, 3-4 hours)

Give students the opportunity to spend a day as a forest ecologist! Groups will learn about forest health, restoration, and management, all while collecting data that will be used by the Trust to evaluate the condition of forests on the preserve.

Subjects: Science and Math

2-day Forest Restoration Monitoring (6th – 12th grade, 2 days)

Give students the opportunity to spend a day as a forest ecologist! The overnight version of this program focuses on cultivating students' understanding of forest ecology and data collection methods. With lab experiments and guided discussions students will build the context needed to understand *why* the data they collect is important.

Subjects: Science and Math



Water Ecology

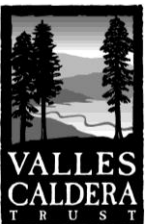
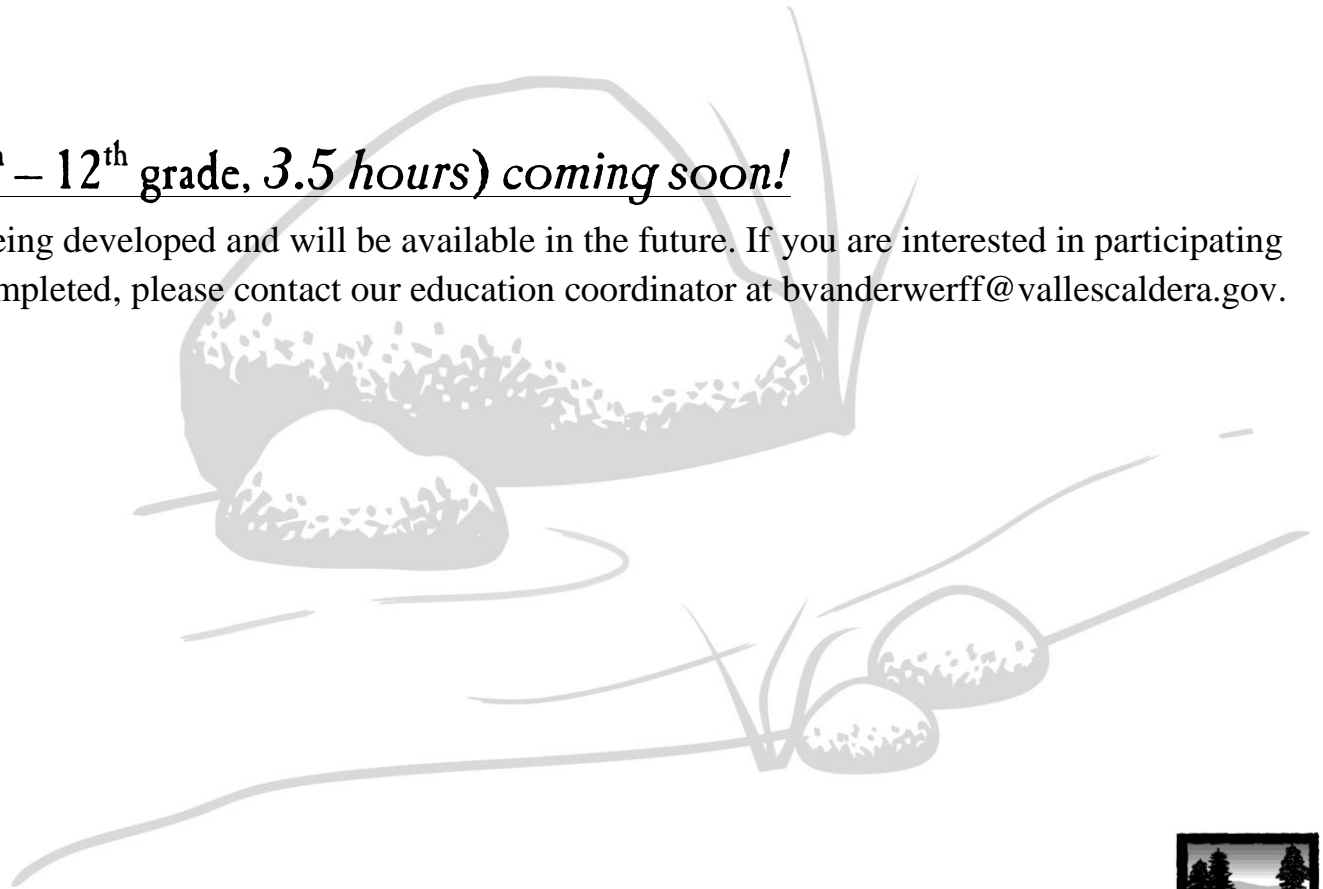
Little Lives: Macroinvertebrates (4th – 6th grade, 3.5 hours)

Get out and get wet! In this program students will investigate the little lives often overlooked in streams. Armed with microscopes, nets, and curiosity, students will explore streams on the Preserve and learn how the creatures they find can tell us a lot about the ecosystem around them.

Subjects: Science

Water Monitoring Project (7th – 12th grade, 3.5 hours) coming soon!

This program is in the process of being developed and will be available in the future. If you are interested in participating in this program once it has been completed, please contact our education coordinator at bvanderwerff@vallescaldera.gov.



Ecosystem Basics

Experiencing an Ecosystem (2nd – 4th grade, 3 hours)

What is an ecosystem? Through a variety of games, stories, and first hand investigations, students will use all their senses to gain a greater understanding of habitat components and the interrelationships of living things.

Subjects: Science

Exploring our Ecosystems (5th – 6th grade, 3 hours)

What does an ecosystem encompass? In this program, students will explore ecosystem interactions and components through activities aimed at inspiring inquiry and curiosity.

Subjects: Science

The Essence of an Ecosystem (7th – 12th grade, 3 hours)

How do we understand ecosystems? Through a variety of outdoor labs and activities, students will learn how energy flows through ecosystems, how scientists understand ecosystems, and how humans impact ecosystems in New Mexico.

Subjects: Science, Art, and Math

Labs

Matchstick Forest (5th – 12th grade, 1.5 hours)

Set your students curiosity on fire! In this lab, students will investigate the influence of slope and forest structure on the spread of fire, by designing (and setting fire to) their own forests.

Subjects: Science

Bugs on a Pin (4th – 8th grade, 1.5 hours) coming soon!

This lab is in the process of being developed and will be available in the future. If you are interested in participating in this lab once it has been completed please contact our education coordinator at bvanderwerff@vallescaldera.gov.

Creating a Caldera (4th – 8th grade, 1.5 hours)

Ever wonder why the caldera looks the way it does? In this lab, students will develop hypotheses to explain the geological structure of the Valles Caldera and then test their hypothesis by forming their own caldera and watching it erupt.

Subjects: Science

